

REMARKS

The specification was amended to place the application in better form for examination to expedite prosecution.

The claims in this case have been amended to correspond with the set of claims which were the subject of International Preliminary Examination Report of 22 October 1999. The International Preliminary Examination Report indicates that the claims, as now presented, are novel and contain inventive steps. A copy of the German language Report is attached for the Examiner's convenience. When an English language translation becomes available, Applicants will forward a copy to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

A favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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